MONTEREY NEWS

December 2007
VOLUME XXXVII · Number 12

An early winter walk, Rawson Brook Farm (photo by Susan Sellew)

The Town

Note: The News *currently does not have a town reporter, so the editor compiled this report from the Select Board meeting minutes recorded by Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe and approved by the Select Board. (The section headings are the editor's.) Only the meetings of November 5th and 19th are reported here; there was no meeting on November 12th in observance of Veteran's Day, and the minutes of the November 26th meeting were not yet approved and made public in time for this issue. Anyone interested in being the town reporter should contact the editor at 528-4347. Please!*

Broadband Committee

Members of the newly formed Broadband Committee (Cliff Weiss, Will Marsh, Monica Webb, Adam Goodman, Karen Shreefter, and Virgil Stucker—Michael Storch is also on the committee but was not present) met with the Select Board on November 5th to discuss their charge and how to proceed. High-speed Internet access for everyone in Monterey is the goal of the committee. Monterey is currently not a fully serviced community; satellite service is sketchy due to the terrain, DSL is not available to everyone, and cable services are not available. The Board asked the committee to perform a fact-finding mission first and foremost to gather all the pertinent information: how many people have DSL currently, how many need broadband service, how many are interested in getting it, who owns the poles and other hardware, etc. Berkshire Connect, a regional initiative dedicated to more robust and competitive telecommunications in western Massachusetts, has probably done a lot of this fact-finding

and should be contacted. The committee should research the types of service available and the service providers and then make a proposal to the Select Board. Any additional services shown to be feasible (voip, cable services, etc) would be a bonus. The Board wants the committee to petition our politicians and existing companies to provide us with broadband access. The people to be contacted need to be identified, and the committee needs to be persistent in their efforts. Other local towns should be contacted to find out how they are approaching this issue. The Select Board and Broadband Committee combined should meet with Berkshire Connect. The Board also suggested that the committee contact the cable company and Verizon. The committee is to meet with the Select Board again on December 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

The Town Clerk/Inter-Departmental Secretary Dispute

On November 5th, the Select Board reviewed the response from Town Clerk Barbara Swann regarding mediation to attempt to resolve the ongoing conflict between her and Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe. In her response Swann requested that she meet with the mediator and each Select Board member individually. The Board responded that any productive mediation would require all parties involved in the dispute to be present.

Peter Murkett came to the November 5th meeting to discuss the dispute and pointed out that Swann's responses to mediation requests have in effect been a refusal to mediate the issue. Murkett has written a letter calling on the Select Board to provide a specific venue to resolve this issue. (The letter, printed in the November *Monterey News,* was also signed by several current or former town officials.) Select Board member Wayne Burkhart said he felt that bringing attention to the matter between the two offices will increase the negativity and the "conspiracy theory."

The Board discussed the issue again at the November 19th meeting and reviewed Town Counsel's latest response about the Select Board's available options. The Board could proceed with an investigation to determine the parameters of the dispute. The point of the investigation would be to inform voters of all the issues before they go to the polls to vote. The Board could also confer with an attorney to see if a libel or slander case should be pursued regarding statements about Melissa Noe's character. Burkhart noted that while he agrees that Barbara Swann has not acted appropriately and that she may have made slanderous comments about Noe, he feels that a government entity cannot control what people say about others. He does not feel that the Board can do anything more and he doesn't want it to become a battle of sides.

It was agreed that no one behaves appropriately all the time but that this particular situation has gone on for far too long (since before Noe was hired by the Town). The behaviors have been negative, obstructive and persistent, and the situation needs to be publicized and investigated.

Town Counsel will be asked to come in to discuss the parameters of the investigation. The Board agreed that the investigation should focus on the difficulties between the Town Clerk's office and the rest of the Town in all the manifestations, including conduct and operation of the office.

Highways and Operations

Select Board member Scott Jenssen asked Director of Operations Maynard Forbes to have the Highway Department remove a tire left in the road across from the Andrus driveway. One of Century Acquisitions cement truck's tires blew off and the shredded bits were left there. Forbes will contact the company about the debris and also about the damage done to

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the Wool property when the truck went off the road. The property damage and littering will be reported to the Police Department to handle accordingly.

After reviewing Dean Amidon's maps, Forbes was able to determine where the Town portion of Sylvan Road ends and the private section begins.

A resident of Norwalk Acres called with a question about posting 911 numbers. The resident has a right-of-way through an adjoining property and has posted his 911 number, but the owner of the property where the right-of-way is located continues to take it down. Forbes sent a copy of the bylaws stating that a 911 number must be posted for emergency vehicles.

It was decided to keep the porta potty at the transfer station year round.

New regulations (520 CMR 14.03) will take effect in January 2009 that will require a permit for any trench dug deeper than 3 feet on private or Town property. The Town will be responsible for issuing the permits. The Select Board appointed Building Inspector Don Torrico as the permitting authority for the new regulation and will set a fee for the permit.

In other Highway Department news, Forbes reported that repairs on some of the sanders have been made and they have been put on the trucks. Beavers are working daily at a Brett Road culvert; the highway crew is cleaning it as necessary. And Forbes hopes to put the Salt Shed out to bid in February.

Franny Huberman

The children's drama group met for six weeks last spring, one of many activities sponsored by the Cultural Council. Row 1 (l. to r.): Lucy, Ella, Dalyan. Row 2: Maia, Claudia, Mac, Eloisa. Row 3: Rachel(instructor), Meredyth (instructor), Gabriella, and Jonah. Justin was also in the group, but not available for the photo.

Blue recycling bins will be available at the Town Hall, one per household. Residents should see Melissa Noe, Inter-Departmental Secretary, to obtain one.

Police Blotter

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following police responses:

- Two mutual aid calls in Great Barrington on Halloween: a convenience store robbery and a CHINS warrant.
- Complaint of loose dog on Hupi Road.
- A resident walked in and reported an identity theft had taken place.
- Motor vehicle on Cronk Rd crashed into a resident's fence.
- Assisted Fire Department with a medical call.
- MVA assistance on Blue Hill Road in Great Barrington.
- Structure fire on River Road.
- Disabled MV on Brett Road—car was left there and the plates were removed.
- False alarms on Sylvan Road, Heron Pond Park.
- Complaint of geese hunters on Lake Garfield.
- Car–deer accident.
- Unregistered abandoned vehicle on Fox Hill Road, which was towed.

This and That

The Select Board sent a letter of congratulations to Tax Collector Mari Enoch for successful certification as a Certified Massachusetts Municipal Collector.

The Board agreed to offer an option for a third year to the tenants at Bally Gally. The lease will be reviewed and amended.

Kathie Frome came in to discuss her hopes to form a core of interested people to continue to support the work of Dr. Ruth Engo on AIDS in Africa. >

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Town Counsel was given the go-ahead by the Select Board to pursue action against the Art School Road Inn.

Building Inspector Don Torrico reported that there is still a lot of building going on in town. Also, there will be an OSHA 10 class in Lee in the beginning of January (2 days, 5 hours each day); interested parties should see Don for more details.

Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe asked the Board what they would do about the four residents who have not paid or responded to the false alarm fines they've incurred. The Board will discuss the matter with Police Chief Backhaus.

Town Accountant, Barbara Gauthier reported that the "pothole" money from the Commonwealth has been received.

On the recommendation of the Monterey Cultural Council, the Select Board appointed Laurily Epstein to replace Susan Johnson on the Council.

The Board discussed the request from David Steindler of Sheffield to meet separately with the Finance Committee and Select Board of each town in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to discuss the FY09 budget. The Board will send a response to Mr. Steindler, with copies to the other four town's Select Boards and Finance Committees and to the School Committee.

Cynthia Weber, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, met with the Select Board to discuss the recent special permit hearing on WEMSCO's request to place a communications device on Mt. Wilcox. The bylaws state that in a case such as this a bond must be placed and the Select Board, Planning Board and Conservation Commission need to meet with a consultant to review the documents. It was noted that the applicant of the special permit would incur the costs for the consultant.

Weber also reported on the recent applications for permits on Woodland Drive and suggested that it might be in the best interest of the Town to have the Director of Operations make a site visit to see if the road meets current private road specifications. The Town should determine if the road is passable for Town equipment, as it appears that Woodland Drive was initially a driveway and has since been moved.

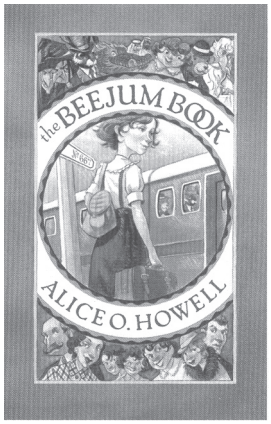
— Will Marsh
(from Select Board Minutes)

Monterey Broadband Committee Report

The Monterey Broadband Committee mentioned in last month's *News* has met three times in the last month to set priorities and begin the task of bringing broadband services to Monterey. We have made contact with the surrounding towns to learn more about their efforts and where they are in the process. Additionally, we have made formal contact with Berkshire Connect (www.bconnect.org), an organization focused on bringing broadband services to the underserved and unserved communities within Berkshire County. Monterey is classified as an *underserved* town (not unserved) since a portion of the town has Internet access over Verizon's network based on DSL (Digital Subscriber Link) technology.

Berkshire Connect will be launching a survey early in December that will identify and quantify the need and opportunity for broadband services in Monterey and the surrounding communities. It is imperative that each household (primary and second home owners and renters) complete the survey so that we may gather up-to-date information. Even if you already have DSL or other broadband service you should fill out the survey—we need to have a complete picture of current service in order to get service for the whole town. The service providers (Verizon, etc.) are under no obligation to provide details about their service areas so we need your information. The Broadband Committee will announce the details about the survey (where to obtain hard copies, online address) and how to complete it once that information is received from Berkshire Connect. >

These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make peerfect Christmas gifts!



The Beejum Book will take its place with ***The Little Princess*** and ***Charlotte's Web*** as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey,
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About Broadband Internet Service

The Monterey Select Board has assigned the recently formed Broadband Committee the task of trying to bring high-speed Internet connectivity to all of Monterey. While a portion of the town has gotten broadband DSL service from Verizon, many households in town do not have access to high-speed service.

Broadband is a term describing a high capacity communications capability. The FCC defines broadband as 200 Kbps (kilobits per second or 200,000 bits per second) performance in a single direction and advanced broadband as 200Kbps in both directions. >

Broadband offers faster downloads of files and Internet web pages. The average web page size has grown from 60 KB (1999) to 130 KB (2006). (Note capital 'B' here—in computer lingo, 'b' is abbreviation for bits, 'B' is for bytes. One byte equals 8 bits and is the minimum amount of memory needed to represent one character. Transmission speed is expressed in bits, page, file, and disk sizes in bytes.) The trend is toward large pages with more detailed graphics, audio, video and advertising. The size of application and data files, frequently downloaded or sent as email attachments, has undergone a similar growth, so high-speed connectivity has become almost a basic necessity.

The different types of Internet access service, the connection speeds, and current monthly costs are shown below (Mbps = Megabits per second; 1 megabit is 1,000 kilobits). Currently only phone dial-up, DSL (in some parts of town), and satellite services are available in Monterey. Satellite has a high set-up cost (around $600) and the service can sketchy and erratic because of terrain and weather conditions. FIOS (using fiber optic lines) may be the coming technology of choice; Verizon currently has or is making it available in the urban centers of eastern Massachusetts. As is usually the case, almost all of the unserved and underserved towns for broadband access are in the western part of the state.

— Cliff Weiss and Will Marsh
Monterey Broadband Committee

Types of Broadband Service

Service	Upload Speed	Download Speed	Cost per month
Phone Dial-Up	16 to 56 Kbps, depending on line quality	16 to 56 Kbps, depending on line quality	$10 to $25
Satellite	128 to 256 Kbps	512 Kbps to 1.5 Mbps	$50 to $120
DSL (Digital Subscriber Link)	128 to 384 Kbps	768 Kbps to 1.5 Mbps	$15 to $30
Wireless	128 to 768 Kbps	384 Kbps to 2 Mbps	$22 to $60
Premium DSL	384 to 768 Kbps	3 to 6 Mbps	$20 to $45
Cable	384 to 768 Kbps	4 to 6 Mbps	$40 to $55
Premium Cable	768 Kbps to 1.5 Mbps	8 to 16 Mbps	$50 to $80
FIOS (Fiber Optic)	5 Mbps	30 Mbps	

We are hopeful that the efforts of the surrounding towns in addition to the information provided by the survey can be combined to leverage service providers into providing the broadband services essential in today's society.

We invite all to keep current with our Broadband Committee's work in trying to bring broadband to the entire town. To receive updates you can either:

• send us an email with your email address to broadbandcommittee@verizon.net, or

• sign up for broadband news. To do this, go to www.montereyma.gov, scroll to the bottom and click on Subscribe to News, and under the section "News and Notices," click on Broadband Committee.

— Cliff Weiss and Karen Shreefter
Monterey Broadband Committee

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The Monterey Town Website

Thanks to everyone who has visited the Town of Monterey website and to those who have signed up to receive emails from the Town Hall. I'd like to take this opportunity to make you aware of a few changes and upgrades on the town's website.

The town's website address has changed. The new website address is www.montereyma.gov; we recommend that you update your favorites or bookmarks to the new address to avoid any problems.

We have enhanced the "Subscribe to News" feature. If you go to http://www.montereyma.gov/subscriber you have the option to sign up for board and committee minutes for specific boards, and you can pick and choose which types of news and announcement emails you'd like to receive. If you are already a subscriber of town meeting minutes you should receive all boards and committee meeting minutes. You will have the option in each email to opt out of a particular board's or committee's minutes if you are not interested in receiving them. If you are already a subscriber to News & Events you will only receive News & Events emails; if you'd like to sign up to receive emails from the newly created categories such as Broadband Committee updates or Employment Opportunities, you will need to go to http://www.montereyma.gov/subscriber and check the boxes for the emails you'd like to be added to.

If you have any questions or suggestions on how we can further enhance the website please do not hesitate to email me at townmont@verizon.net.

— Melissa Noe

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Local Musicians to Entertain at Dec. 12th Community Dinner

Many thanks to the Monterey Chapter of the Center for Peace through Culture for sponsoring Dr. Ruth Engo, the founder of African Action on AIDS, at the November Potluck Supper. She presented a unique method of fighting the spread of AIDS, one orphan at a time, using basic health measures, clean water and stressing individual responsiblity.

For the December 12th Potluck Dinner, we are thrilled to have several members of the local band, Bottom of the Bucket. Eric Martin will present a program involving violin, viola and fiddle, and differences in instruments and styles. He will be joined by fellow bandmate Stephen Enoch on guitar, Bouziki and tin whistle. There will also be foot percussion and vocals, so come join in the fun!

The December12th Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a plate and silverware for yourself.

— Kyle Pierce

ॐ

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From the Meetinghouse: Christmas Eve Service

These are the people in your neighborhood. Kenn Bassler owns and runs the General Store. Donna Burkhart is Director of Client Services at Gould Farm. Mari Enoch is the town tax collector. Steve Kahn is the president of the Coffee Club. Del Martin is a captain in the Fire Department. And Ray Tryon is the Fire Department Chief. This year, too, these are the people who will tell the Christmas story at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

My first few attempts at a Christmas Eve service here in town were, I think, off the mark. A lover of choral music, and having recently moved from Cambridge, I had come to believe that a Christmas Eve service should be decorous and serene. A choir should sing carols in Latin and German. The readings should include the creation and fall of humanity, as well as the birth of a savior. The prayers should bear in mind every last thing in need of prayer. Even though it was Christmas Eve, and everyone—especially the children!—would be aching to get home to begin the night-long wait for Santa Claus, the service might run long because it was an important one in the life of the church So the services I offered here on Christmas Eve were just that—decorous and serene, formal, long.

Oops.

Not until last year, my sixth year as pastor here, was I ready to admit that when it came to Christmas, I kept shooting off the mark. The sanctuary, the church, the town, are all too small and too intimate to have such formality be anything but that—a formality. So, last year I stripped away everything from the service that felt "churchy." I pealed away layers that have great meaning to me, but not to everyone. And I found at the heart of the service a story that is simple and lovely on its own terms. It needs nothing fancy added. It needs only to be told.

Here's how the service went. We lit a candle. We passed the peace. Then we heard the story—Mary saying yes to the angel Gabriel, Jesus born in a stable, shepherds and angels gathering around the manger, Magi coming from the East with strange gifts, and a reminder that God is with us. In between each of these tellings, we sang carols—"O Little Town of Bethlehem"; "Away in a Manger"; "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"; "O Come, All Ye Fathful"; and of course "Silent Night" by candlelight. And during each of the tellings, I play-acted it out with a crèche set made of wood. The inspiration for this is the Montessori method of telling stories with materials that beg to be played with, to be touched and moved around. And so these did, as when the service was finished and the congregation was free to come play with the crèche, children from the congregation rushed the altar like fans at a rock concert. They physically pushed me out of their way off the altar. It was a delight to me.

This year, we have a new crèche set, bigger and lovelier, donated to the church in memory of Mary Ward. As a long-time member of the church who loved this town, Mary would have enjoyed the idea of the town coming together—regardless of creed or class, clique or ideological camp—to hear a story that brings light to a dark night. It is in this spirit, too, that we do something else new: the tellers of the Christmas story will be people in our neighborhood, all people who remind us that Monterey abounds with God's blessing.

Please come.

The service will be at 7 p.m. It will last about 40 minutes. We will have Firehouse Fudge courtesy of Ray Tryon (did you know he makes fudge?) and mulled cider. A living nativity will follow at Gould Farm at 8 p.m.

— Elizabeth Goodman

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Call to Action with African Action on Aids

Many of you have now heard Dr. Ruth Engo, founder and current president of African Action on AIDS, speak of her work with AIDS orphans, women, and villages in Sub-Saharan Africa, and I am sure you will agree that she is a woman of immense wisdom, vision, and warm-hearted respect for all of humanity. Speaking for the board of the Center for Peace Through Culture, I would like to say that it was a great pleasure and honor to be able to introduce Ruth to Monterey and to give Ruth an opportunity to meet so many wonderful Monterey residents.

Over the years I have looked at other towns in the Berkshires that have Sister City programs, and I have had the recurring thought that this would be a wonderful project for Monterey. This notion came to the fore again in recent talks with Ruth, as a vision has been emerging that could bring Monterey residents into a unique partnership relationship with a network of several small villages in Cameroon, in a way that would be both mutually enriching and also supportive of their efforts to improve living conditions and respond to the effects of AIDS. Sister Cities may or may not be the right model for anything we might choose to do, but the idea of extending our own wealth of resources in the spirit of global brother/sisterhood remains as the central organizing theme and starting point.

One of the things that makes Ruth's work so exceptional is her absolute commitment to the ideals of self-sufficiency and personal responsibility rather than dependency, helplessness, and victim mentality. So she does not promote handouts. She promotes education, improvement of living conditions (with basics such as clean water, toilets, and cleanliness), microfinancing, and good health maintenance practices. She knows that sometimes an initial boost of help from the outside is needed to get things started, but she also knows that it is important for people to give something back. This is where African Action on AIDS comes in, and this is where our opportunity lies.

We have a wonderful chance to be directly involved in designing a grassroots endeavor that can go as far as our creativity, interests, and energies want to take us. An encouraging number of people have expressed interest in meeting to begin a dialogue about ways that we might work together to do this. A first meeting is planned for **Sunday, December 9, from 1:00 to no later than 3:00 p.m., in the Monterey Meetinghouse Social Room** (refreshments will be served). We will be looking at the specific areas of need and opportunity that Ruth has outlined; and we will look at our resources and begin to brainstorm ideas.

We invite anyone who feels moved to participate or just to come and learn more. We would appreciate hearing from you if you do plan to come, but of course you will also be welcomed unannounced. If you cannot attend, but would like to be on the mailing list for meetings and progress updates, please let us know. You can respond to 528-2516.

— Kathie Frome

Monterey Community Center Committee News

The Town and the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee have been waiting for some months to hear what the Probate Court will say about the Town's petition in regard to the stipulations of Edith Wilson's bequest to the Town in 1995. It now appears that the Court may rule on our case as early as December 5th, so quite soon we will know about our options for using this valuable and unique property. There are numerous possible paths the Town could take—stay tuned for word on what the Court has decided!

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Thank You, Monterey, from Ruth Engo

I wish to extend many thanks to all who attended the Community Dinner on November 14 and to the organizers, Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce, for giving me the possibility to speak to Monterey community members about my work in Cameroon. I was welcomed by a warm gathering of foods and happy people, and even found that I had a distant global "cousin" named Steve! I would also like to thank the Center for Peace Through Culture (CPC) for arranging my visit to the Berkshires and this speaking engagement. Together you all truly generated a peaceful atmosphere for a subject that causes stress all over the world, AIDS.

A new approach to action on AIDS that emphasizes system thinking is emerging. It sees AIDS as one part of the many problems that the African people face, robbing them of their lives and their culture. For example, the lack of potable water, basic hygiene, and sanitation are conducive to the spread of other diseases, such as malaria, diarrhea, and TB. Therefore, it is self-defeating to treat AIDS alone, when people with HIV/AIDS will only continue to live in an unhealthy environment that will put them at the mercy of other infections their already weakened immune systems cannot handle.

AIDS is not only a problem, but also a possibility (challenge) for action. On the one hand, AIDS commonly stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which means that the body loses its defense system and can be attacked by any disease, but AIDS can also stand for "AM I DOING SOMETHING?"

So I also thank you for the interest you have shown in exploring ways that African Action on AIDS and people in Monterey might DO SOMETHING together. I feel that African Action on AIDS has found a second home in Monterey … an extended family that started with only two friends, but by November 14 turned into a much larger family of friends.

— Dr. Ruth Engo

P.S. from Laraine Lippe: I would like to echo Ruth's message of thanks. It was my first Community Potluck and I look forward to attending many others. Thank you all for your keen interest, questions, and ideas—and many thanks for the delicious food! Thanks again, Kyle and Barbara!

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Monterey Library Notes

Denise Andrus will be reading a story and doing a craft with young children on Saturday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the library. The theme will be Christmas, of course.

We have been busy in the library working on our switch to becoming a member of the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing Network(popularly known as CWMARS). We actually have almost half our collection on their catalog at this point, though we still need to set up our site for circulation and everything else that goes with it. At some point this winter we will be full members of this system, and the catalog of books from Monterey will go from eight thousand to over eight million. We will let you know when we switch over, and those of you who request Inter Library Loan books will be able to pick them up in Monterey.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

Green Life: Indications and Counterindications

Here are three things I have done recently:

1. I made myself a new watchband. This took about an hour and was hard on my thumbs as it involved sewing through leather and I have thumb-joint arthritis. Still, the satisfaction is great and I did not have to drive to Kmart and lay out any greenbacks for a crummy band shipped from China which would surely have discorporated in a year or two. My new band does not have a buckle—rather a plain black button off a shirt from way back. The leather I used is a sort of rusty-looking scrap of suede from a box in my closet labeled "Leather."

2. You know those vacuum-cleaner bags that you are supposed to throw away once they are full? I discovered long ago that you can carefully open the back end of them (I use a Swiss Army knife to encourage the glued seam to open) and shake out the detritus and then glue the seam back together. Next time you will have more trouble opening it, and even more trouble the next time and finally you will have to actually toss it. But not any more, not me: I have installed Velcro on the seam of my paper vac bag!

3. Tote bag handle. My canvas LL-Bean tote bag, quite venerable, became ratty about the handles. It was an embarrassment for a year or two and finally untoteworthy. I considered throwing it out and getting a new one. But the bag part of the thing was fine, so I went to the "Leather" box and found a tough old strap about an inch wide. This I cut into two good pieces and stitched onto the bag. It took about an hour per handle because I first had to punch little holes in the leather and because my thumbs were still sore from making the watchband, so I had to use pliers to pull the needle through the canvas.

Indications

Huge satisfaction at subverting the system of toss and buy. Also, lots of carbon credits for me to sell to some big polluter like Exxon.

Counterindications

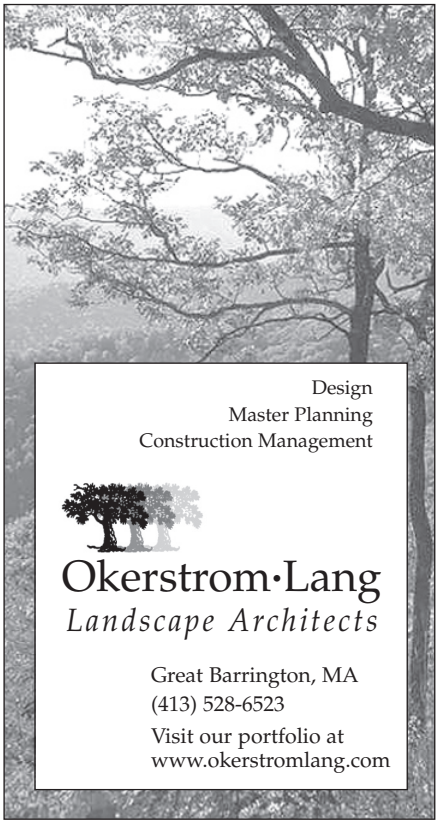
Thumbs. Also, the suede watchband has stretched a little (typical suede!) and I have to move the button.

— Bonner McAllester

ॐ

New Marlborough Holiday Art & Craft Sale

The weather is turning colder and our thoughts begin to turn to winter pursuits—curling up by the fire with a book, skiing, chopping wood … and, of course, the Holiday Art and Craft Sale at the Meeting House Gallery! Sponsored again this year by the New Marlborough Cultural Council, the Art and Craft Sale is an excellent source of gifts for hard-to-buy-for people. Local artists and craftspeople will be displaying their wares on Friday, December 14, from 6 to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 15, noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 16, noon to 5:00 pm. In past years we have had ceramics, paper crafts, cards, photos, amaryllis bulbs, handmade giftwrap, paintings, yarn, dolls, ironwork, jewelry, wood carvings, specialty knives, and more! Students from Bard College at Simon's Rock will perform a holiday concert on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 and a drawing will be held to give away a fabulous gift basket on Sunday at 3:00. Everyone is invited to stop by to browse, shop, and chat! Artists and craftspeople who are interested in participating should contact Brian Mikesell at 413-229-0102—there is no fee or commission, so help us fill up the gallery for a festive weekend.



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Grant to CET Will Help Towns Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Rural towns, businesses, and individuals in western Massachusetts are eligible for help managing their waste problems through a $100,000 grant to the Center for Ecological Technology (CET). The grant was awarded to CET by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development and will be used to help communities with fewer than 10,000 residents divert waste from landfills and combustion facilities through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. "We're excited to be able to work with a broad range of groups in western Mass," said Jamie Cahillane, director of recycling services for CET.

Businesses, schools, and other groups often struggle with how to safely dispose of items like spent fluorescent bulbs, outdated electronics, and rechargeable batteries. The grant will enable CET to help. In the past year, CET has worked with Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington to establish bottle and can recycling and enhance paper recycling. CET will assist other groups in reducing unnecessary waste during the holidays, the logistics of collecting and storing recyclables, and suggest recycling options. Also, CET waste management specialists will be available to conduct presentations or lead discussions on such topics as how to compost, how to reduce waste, and how to use less toxic products at home and in the garden.

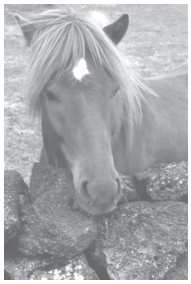
In western Massachusetts, communities have an economic incentive to recycle. Most western Massachusetts towns are paid an average of more than $30 for every ton of recyclables they bring to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility.

"The combustion of waste results in greenhouse gases that directly contribute to climate change," said CET Co-Director Laura Dubester. "Recycling and reducing waste are easy steps that everyone can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—at home, at work, and in our communities."

"Keeping scenic, western Massachusetts beautiful requires the best practices to safeguard the environment," said John Olver (D-1st District.) "Know-how is essential to waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. This grant will provide communities, businesses, and schools with valuable tools to preserve what's unique about our area."

"USDA Rural Development has been working with CET for several years now, and we are very pleased to continue to support their efforts toward waste reduction and education about reuse and recycling," said Rural Development State Director David Tuttle. "Our agency's mission is to improve the quality of life in rural America and CET has proven to be a great partner in that endeavor."

For more information, contact Jamie Cahillane at jamiec@cetonline.org or call 413-445-4556, ext. 14. The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is a nonprofit energy and resource conservation and waste management organization serving western Massachusetts, with offices in Pittsfield, Northampton, and Springfield. CET is an equal opportunity provider and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



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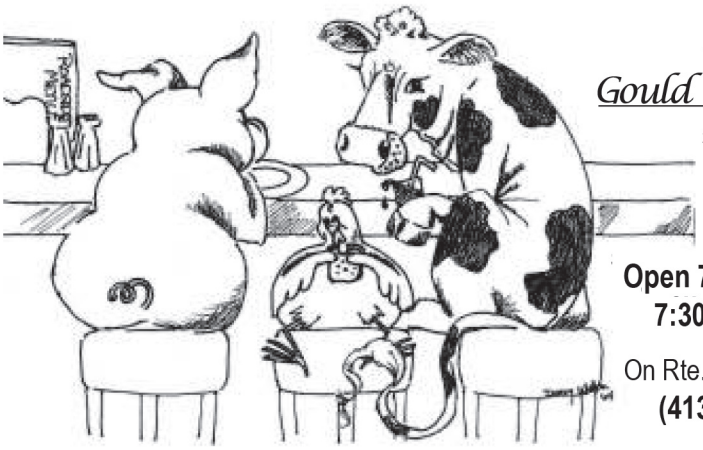
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The Bee Beckons

"The holidays are upon us!" That has become the cry of the populace lately, as department stores begin touting new Christmas gifts and decorations, snow falls, and the annual discourse begins on the sad commercialization of the giving season. Unbeknownst to many, a different, less recognized season has arrived. The geography season has come!

For the youth around the town and county, including myself, that means studying for the National Geographic Bee, a learning experience and test of knowledge, poise, and luck for geography loving kids across the nation and ultimately around the world. I dig out my 196 (and counting) flashcards daily, intent on mastering world capitals and physical terms for the bee. It is my last year of eligibility for this wonderful program, and I feel some pressure to produce.

Overshadowed by the National Spelling Bee, the National Geographic Bee has been going on since the late '80s, when the National Geographic Society decided it was time to increase awareness of geography among America's young people. The bee is now a smashing success, with several million children competing nationwide in the classroom, school, state, and national levels. National Geographic has also created a popular website, mywonderfulworld.org, for the same purpose.

The local bee is that of the Berkshire Adventure Learners homeschool group. Homeschooled residents of Berkshire County in grades 4 to 8 are strongly encouraged to participate. Please call 413-528-5414 to register for the bee.

However, for adult and teen geography fanatics, there are other great programs, books, and websites to explore. Schools around the United States celebrated Geography Awareness Week recently, which took place November 11–17. On this note, I leave room for a variety of resources to enrich the global knowledge of us all. I encourage all readers of this article to keep exploring and join the quest to spread geographic learning far and wide.

3 Stumpers to Test Your Knowledge

1. What is the currency of Bhutan?
2. Who is the Secretary General of the U.N.?
3. Where is Lake Balkhash located?

Answers: 1:ngultrum, 2:Ban ki-Moon, 3: Kazakhstan

Great Websites

1. mywonderfulworld.org: Founded by National Geographic; a great resource tool and a fun place for kids.
2. nationalgeographic.com: The quintessential geography authority is surely found here.
3. about.com/geography: From geography magnate Matt Rosenberg, this website has tough quizzes, great resources, and information on finding careers in geography. One can sign up for great e-mail updates.
4. purposegames.com: This website features a variety of geography games.

Other Resources

1. *National Geographic Magazine*
2. *Afghanistan to Zimbabwe* by Andrew Wojitanik
3. *National Geographic Bee Official Study Guide* by Stephen Cunha
4. *Illustrated Dictionary of Physical Geography* by Henry Conserva
5. *The Handy Geography Answer Book* by Matt Rosenberg

— Jonah Carlson

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Little Dog

So lovable, my little terrier.
None's faster, fluffier, or merrier.
When she cavorts I may get wearier,
but then she snorts, and makes me cheerier.
She licks my face and I get tearier;
her love for me becoming eerier.
With unknown dogs, she can get scarier,
and when she does I must be warier.
It's her bad luck that I'm a worrier,
for if I'm late I sometimes hurry her.
Without her, I'd be sedentarier.
She's fast becoming necessarier.
To some, she couldn't be ordinarier;
but, nonetheless, I think I'll marry her.

— Ed Schur

Roses

Bread into roses
in the apron of charity
fear on the cobblestones
the saint
would have fled

when I carry roses
it must be for charity
my apron
trembles full of flower flames
that must be prayed
to bread.

— A. O. Howell

Dear America;

You think the universe is thine
every moment of time
as we sip the wine
as we box them in pine
planting mines
falling prey to crimes
take no time to walk
time to balk
taking the wrong fork
Imbibing, contriving,
categorizing, mobilizing,
tranquilizing
Feeling great by mollifying hate
babies in the crate
too late
Finding blame
dealing with shame
We don't maim
it's always the same
Dark clouds over the moon
"we'll get him soon"
you know this tune
Raise the flag
time to brag
tails to wag
just one snag
Talk of peace
a whole new lease
we will not cease
In the name of peace

— Bob Hirsch

Good bye Autumn

When all the leaves have fallen to the ground
We bid farewell to autumn's milder days
And look ahead to winter's cold and storm
And think of nature's rougher, wilder ways.
Our summer birds have gone to warmer clime,
And now the blue jays scream from maples rail.
The milkweed pods have burst; their seeds have flown,
And we say "Good bye" to another Berkshire fall.

— Eleanor Kimberley

BTF Presents *A Christmas Carol*

Berkshire Theatre Festival will present Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol,* adapted by Eric Hill, December 13–30 at the Unicorn Theatre. The production will be co-directed by Eric Hill and E. Gray Simons III.

Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth and spent most of his childhood in London and Kent. His first novel, *The Pickwick Papers* (1836–1837), was published in monthly serial installments and became an instant hit. In 1843, he published *A Christmas Carol,* one of the most popular Christmas stories of all time. Dickens was a prolific writer, and his later works are regarded as his finest by critics. Some of these include *Bleak House* (1852–1853), *Great Expectations* (1860–1861), *Oliver Twist* (1837–1839), and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859). Dickens is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Eric Hill will return to co-direct the production for the second year. He is known for his distinctive directing style of intense physicality and poetic musicality. Past BTF directing credits *include Amadeus, The Einstein Project, Siddhartha,* and this season's *The Glass Menagerie* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.* Hill says, "*A Christmas Carol* is one of my favorite stories. Its powerful message about the redemptive power of kindness and giving is as important today as it ever was."

Co-director E. Gray Simons III has worked at BTF for more than a decade as an actor, playwright, teacher, and director. He most recently wrangled 86 local school children in the BTF PLAYS! (BTF's year-round education program) production of *Alice in Wonderland.* To create the Victorian London setting, the directors will collaborate with scenic designer Carl Sprague, costume designer Jessica Risser-Milne, lighting designer Matthew E. Adelson, and sound designer J. Hagenbuckle. Isadora Wolfe will serve as choreographer.

BTF's second annual production of *A Christmas Carol* will run December 13–30, Tuesdays through Sundays at 7 p.m. in the Unicorn Theatre. Saturday, December 15, 7 p.m. tickets include a post-show holiday cast party. There will be 2 p.m. matinee performances on December 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and a special 10 a.m. matinee performance on December 18. There will be no performance on December 25 and no evening performance on December 30 (note that these dates differ from those previously announced at the beginning of the season). Tickets to all other performances are $35–$45 for adults, $20–25 for children and students. Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. Tickets can be purchased via the box office at 413-298-5536 ext. 33 or online at www.berkshiretheatre.org.

Founded in 1928, Berkshire Theatre Festival is one of the oldest professional regional theatres in the United States and the longest-running cultural organization in the Berkshires. The Main Stage (404 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The mission of BTF's second stage, the intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats), is to provide a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. BTF's education program, BTF PLAYS!, reaches over 9,500 children annually through school residencies, touring performances, and summer performance training and writing programs. During the summer months BTF opens its doors to over 100 administrative, acting, and technical interns and apprentices. For more information about Berkshire Theatre Festival, please visit www.berkshiretheatre.org.

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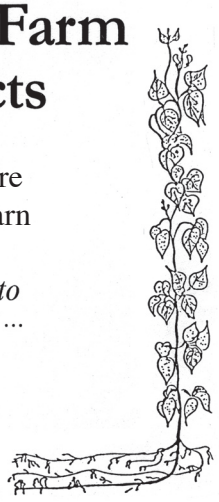

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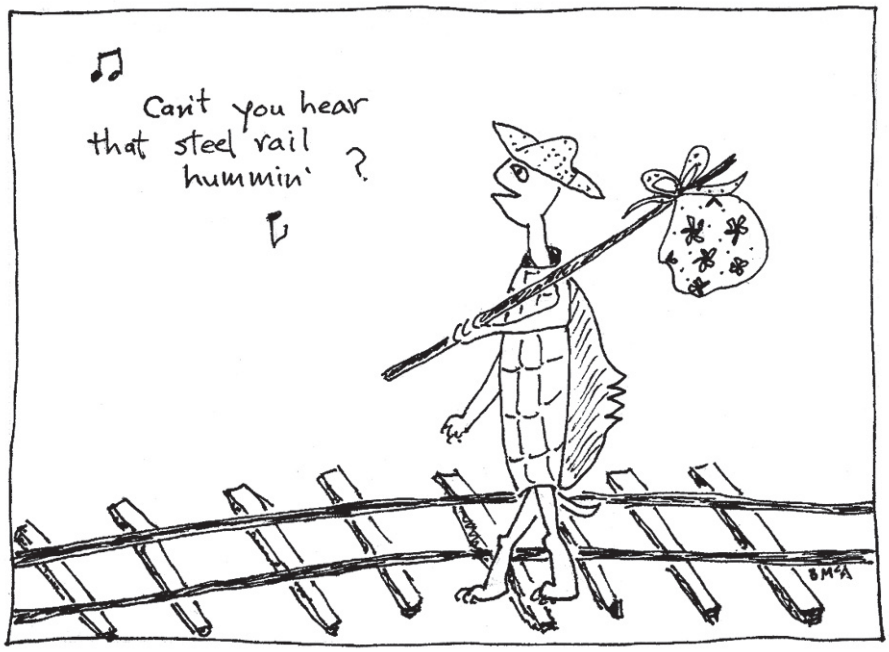
Like everyone else, I am hard at work on my personal carbon footprint, cutting corners and leaping obstacles so I can tiptoe over the planet as much as possible. I am constantly open to suggestion, looking for new solutions, and on my guard for pitfalls. Recently I discovered 73 pitfalls in an unexpected place, caused by someone I'd always viewed as an ally, a complete non-polluter unless you count exhalations and final decomposition.

I should explain that I have been moving toward train travel, in my mind. As a person who half grew up in the West, I always want to get back out there. It's a long way, too far for me to walk. In my ignorant past I've gone by car, again and again. I have even ridden in a plane a time or two, a transport mode which is now known by me to be a complete no-no.

Lately I have taken the bus on some short hauls, hitch-hiked even shorter ones. For getting back out west I am drawn to trains.

I recently hiked along a stretch of track, humming old songs about hoboes and the blowing of lonesome whistles. It was a clear fall day. There weren't any actual trains and the track was not in perfect repair, though there were some places where fresh loads of traprock had been dumped to fill in hollows.



Looks like the rail system is going to take some fixing up, some respect, some subsidy. I know I can help by buying my ticket to Wyoming. But what about these hollows, these cave-ins, these holes in the gravel bed? I quit humming and walk back to make a study.

Along 150 paces, that's 450 feet of track traveling east to west, I count up 8 serious holes on the north-facing slope of the bed and 65 on the south! These are big diggings and I can tell they will happen year after year, as long as some critters lay eggs and other critters gotta eat.

It's the snapping turtles. They come up out of the shallow ponds along this track and dig holes in the bank so they can lay their eggs. They favor the south side for the warmth and fill back in on top of their eggs. Then come the skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, maybe a dog or two, and the gravel begins to fly. All that's left is a pile of leathery egg shells and a hole on a bank, perfect for erosion, bad for my train trip and my carbon tip-toe.

How to work *with* the turtles, the predators, and still get to Wyoming with my eco-halo intact. All those repair trips with the traprock will have to be made by handcar or solar electric repair vehicle. New songs will have to be written to include the turtles and the coyotes. The possibilities are dazzling, confusing, just like carbon counting and the challenge we face: revolutionize the lifestyle or kiss the inhabitable planet good-bye.

Maybe the answer lies in cutting back, exploring Wyoming by memory and folktale, focusing on the Northeast snapping turtle and leaving her western cousin alone until the trains are fixed up and solar powered. Sitting on the bank in the late sun I can put my uniquely human imagination to work. I can write songs about what I remember, dream about green trips to come.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Letter from College
Navigating Academia

They speak English here in the UK. I feel as though I somehow need to state the obvious. Why? Well, because I came here thinking that, and considering the experiences of other Middlebury students that I've heard about so far, from, I am grateful, but that doesn't mean it's always easy. London is of course an amazing city, I've settled in quite well and continue to explore both the city and the surrounding country. I've met some really wonderful people, and I have no large lasting complaints. What is ironic perhaps is that I've come to the conclusion that in my daily life the things most puzzling and frustrating for me are the academics.

I understood coming here that it would be different—one could say I had been warned. Still, I admit I was a bit cocky about it. Middlebury had said, "Be prepared for different facilities, different support, a different system, etc," but I thought privately at times that Middlebury must have a pretty high opinion of itself—I was after all going to the London School of Economics (LSE), which has a decent reputation. It is well known, rightly so because it's a good school, and I'm learning a lot. But for me going there has been a shock, beyond any culture shock. There is a new game in my life again, much like freshmen year, navigating academia. The problem is that this time around, the rules are sometimes vague and therefore more complicated to play by.

Let's start with the library because many people know to use one efficiently; organization is critical. This library does a decent job for the purpose it is meant to serve. I am making comparisons to Middlebury here simply to express the differences and how I might be slowly adjusting for the better. There are no cozy study places in the library here. It has six floors, all with stark white walls, and in the center is a huge spiral staircase so that noise travels easily between floors. Usually only one elevator is working at a time. The books for the courses are in a Course Collection, which means you have to compete with other classmates for the limited supply of required class readings for any given week unless you have electronic reserves. Printing here is expensive, so either way you're going to have to pay in some way for it. Finally, there are never enough computers. Middlebury has, needless to say, state-of-the-art facilities for its smaller student body. Also really nice chairs, drinks allowed in the library, "free printing" (which you certainly do pay in the comprehensive fee), and a cozier atmosphere although when I was there I wasn't convinced. What has this taught me? I plan differently now, from when and what to print, to the time of day the computers are generally less used, and of course when to get books out so I won't be competing as much. That usually requires staying ahead, which is hard to do. Even when I write papers, I have to account for the fact that the books may be gone. I have also joined a library closer to where I live—it never hurts to have a backup plan.

LSE is a zoo; there is really no other way to describe it. It is an extremely urban campus, and when the fire alarm goes off in one building it changes the dynamics of the entire place: students block the roads, and computers in other buildings are snapped up like that. The same holds true for the bomb scares, and, yes, there have been a few of those as well, although nothing serious. What has this all taught me? Well, sooner or later I will buy a printer; I am not hauling my computer down to the school because it's a long walk and because then I have to worry about it vanishing, since thieves can be as thick as, well, thieves here (signs warning us are posted around the school). You have to plan on random events disrupting everything, as in do not pack your time so tightly, very hard for me. I also have

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to find secret routes through campus to make it to class on time.

TA's, or teacher's assistants: Confession time, I've never had one before and I really can't stand the system. I recognize that I have been officially spoiled at Middlebury, and I'm not proud of it all the time especially when I find myself comparing. I know I'm not here to compare, I'm here to learn. The problem is that at times I find myself learning for survival instead of learning the material, a distinction that is hard to explain, but I will try. I have four class lectures a week, during which a professor stands up in front of us and talks for fifty minutes. Then I have class sections taught by postgraduate students four times a week for fifty minutes. That's it, and one week per topic. Essentially two of my class teachers are terrible. For one of my classes, the main professor is also the class teacher, and every week I remember why I so enjoy that. The TA's are nice people doing great research; they are ambitious and dedicated. The problem is that they aren't taught how to teach. Guiding a discussion, especially on challenging and scattered readings, is hard. I recognize this, but when you have no structure and no ability to be clear to students about what they should be taking away from the reading, they learn only the very bare basics because it takes them longer struggling on their own. I guess I'm still working on this one, and I can only hope that my level of processing rises quickly; otherwise this is going to be the hardest thing to ultimately overcome.

Loss of personal connection is another hard one. I'm learning to adjust, but again at Middlebury there is a level of contact with professors that one at times takes for granted. I am ashamed to admit I sometimes forget that not everyone is so lucky, although I also recognize not everyone wants that. Here though, the class professor rarely learns your name: to him or her, you're just another face in the lecture every week. Following from the above on class teachers, it's just not the same getting to know them instead. Somehow they are less intriguing, less focused in academic discussions, so that discussions with them lack a certain inspiration that keeps me coming back for more at Middlebury, a key to how I learn. I've managed to make a slight connection with two of my professors, although in any given class we can have several professors who lecture on different things throughout the year, so that is not saying much. It's a welcome encounter though, however brief. I also find myself emailing Middlebury professors at random points, desperate to convince myself that that experience wasn't a dream.

Sisan Sellew

Otherwise things are going fine, and in reality, it's only at the end of the term when you are juggling papers, presentations and still a massive amount of reading that these little academic things catch up with you. I like academia; here there are new elements that force me to fend for myself, be even more proactive, and that is certainly a much needed element for my educational experience. I recognize and welcome that, as hard as it may be, because I think next year it is going to make a significant difference on my work patterns and ability to rise to opportunities in a different frame of mind. I had an awesome Thanksgiving holiday celebrating with a long lost friend from dance years ago (and her crazy flatmates). Christmas break is just around the corner, the workload has increased, and I'm flying to Germany to visit a Middlebury friend. My life learning curve seems to keep on growing.

Happy Holidays!

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Birds of a Feather

With winter just around the comer, the light of each new dawn outside my windows glitters across a thin layer of ice forming across the surface of Lake Garfield. I watch the waterfowl take refuge in the shallow pools along the edges of the shoreline, starkly outlined with the October drawdown. Soon they will depart to the nearest rivers and lakes that are the last to freeze.

On a recent afternoon walk to savor the warm but waning autumn sun, it was quite a surprise to hear the chatter of a lingering flock of robins along Dianne's Trail and then flush a migrational woodcock from a lowland along Rawson Brook. Both species of birds feed mainly on earthworms and move south ahead of the approaching frost line.

Somehow they know to move out ahead of an approaching weather pattern that will bring a blanket of snow. The inertia of meteorological forces seem to gather up all the stragglers as well, like grains of sand swept up in the eye of a breaking wave. Depending on the force of the front, they may move a hundred miles in a single night. To stay on course they have been said to have a kind of compass capacity in the apex of their brain. But recent scientific findings indicate that sunlight filtered in their eye also directs

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them properly, especially blue light, for some reason.

The fact that most migrational flights include numbers of birds indicates that the instinct overlaps several generations, the older birds reducing the chances of error or miscalculation. Geese usually fly in formations with the matriarch or gander leading the way, breaking the airflow for those that follow. Major movements may be at very high altitudes, with one formation calling out to others for encouragement.

Monterey lies in the path of several migrational routes, which follow visible landmarks such as the Appalachian mountain range as well as major rivers and then later the coastlines. Some flights come from as far away as Nova Scotia and some, especially smaller song birds, reach South America. There will always be a mystery about seasonal cycles and the influence of celestial forces leading the birds from one hemisphere to another, sometimes back again to the point of embarkation.

It is without a doubt, a command performance that is not to be denied. And because when it takes over, birds find safety in numbers, it might be said:

Birds of a feather
migrate together.

— George Emmons

Community Access to the Arts Exhibit at Storefront Artist Project

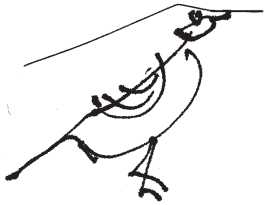
On Saturday, December 1, the Storefront Artist Project hosted a reception for Community Access to the Arts (CATA), a Berkshire County arts organization that nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts. The CATA art show, which is sponsored by the Kinderhook Group/Real Estate, will run through December 16 in the SAP gallery at 124 Fenn Street in Pittsfield

CATA workshops take place in healthcare, therapeutic, eldercare, educational, community and cultural settings as well as in CATA's Great Barrington studio. Twenty-six faculty artists serve over 500 individuals with varying disabilities. Visual arts workshops include drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, woodworking, and set and costume design.

CATA has had a small number of workshops in Pittsfield for years, through BCARC, Ad Lib, Redfield House, and Blue Q., and is embarking on a significant expansion project in northern Berkshire County this year. Rebecca Tucker-Smith, CATA Program Director for northern Berkshire County, said, "We are very excited to be expanding our programs in Pittsfield. Collaborating with the Storefront Artist Project for this exhibit is a wonderful way to begin this process."

All of the art is for sale, with prices running from $75 to $300. CATA participants also become working artists through the organization's creative employment program, CATAdirect. Individuals with disabilities create unique, handmade products such as jewelry, handbags, accessories, and note cards that are sold by area merchants such as Pine Cone Hill, and in CATA's gallery at 40 Railroad Street in Great Barrington. For more information visit www.communityaccesstothearts.org.

The Mission of the Storefront Artist Project is to bring artists and art-making to under-served and diverse members of the community; to present innovative exhibitions; and to create publicly visible temporary workspace for professional artists. SAP is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and is handicap accessible.



Gifts That Give Twice!

This holiday season, help support
Community Access to the Arts
by purchasing our funky jewelry, accessories, art, notecards & holiday decorations. Shop at our gallery at 40 Railroad Street (2nd Floor) or visit www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org for more info.

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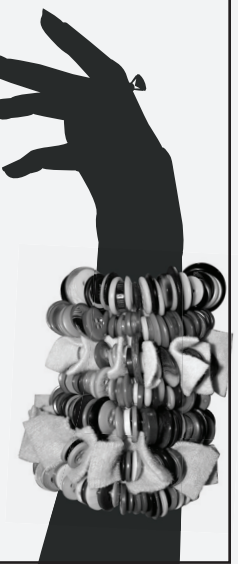
Your purchase helps fund CATA's arts workshops for individuals with disabilities.



Yugi and Hoodgie

The year 1953, when I was eleven, was an age of innocence in the village of Oakdale, Pennsylvania, my childhood hometown. The world was at relative peace, the economy was strong, and crime was virtually unheard of because of our formidable police force, a one-man operation run by a burly fellow with the memorable name of Yugi Tarap (shortened from "Tarapczak"). Yugi, a bull-necked first generation Hungarian, maintained order with nothing more than a nightstick. He wore a holstered pistol but just the specter of being whacked with his two-pound bludgeon was more than enough to discourage anyone with sinister intentions. And Yugi's authority was bolstered by the virtual absence of civil rights at that time. There was no such thing as an appeal for justice. Yugi's word was law, and it was the last word.

A case in point was the summer evening when Herbert Hoover Thornhill, a young black man known as "Hoodgie," had been drinking and was acting up in the town square.

I was hanging around watching him with a few of my buddies when Yugi came on the scene. His dark blue Ford police car rolled to a stop next to Jonesy's Restaurant and Yugi exited with a grunt, barely squeezing his formidable bulk through the door. He moved slowly, narrowing his eyes while taking in the scene of Hoodgie swilling beer and spewing curses at the crowd of bystanders who were waiting to see what would happen.

As if he regretted what was to come, Yugi took a deep breath and waited a moment before speaking. "Hoodgie," he announced in an uncharacteristically gentle tone, "you're gonna have to come with me."

I breathed easier at Yugi's soft approach. I liked Hoodgie, and I hoped he would back off quietly so as to avoid an ugly scene. But Hoodgie was in no mood for conciliation. Once a happy-go-lucky kid, he had returned from combat in Korea a troubled soul. In response to Yugi's challenge, he threw back his head and let out a demonic laugh, then spread his legs in open defiance, his taut body oozing rage.

"___ *you*, you jarhead Hunky!" he roared, violently smashing his beer bottle to the ground. "I ain't goin' nowhere!"

The crowd gasped, then looked at Yugi, who responded with a contemptuous snort.

Oh, man, I thought. Hoodgie's in trouble now.

Yugi took his nightstick out of the loop in his belt and smacked it against his open palm. He walked deliberately toward Hoodgie, stopping just a few feet in front of him. "Now, Hoodgie, you heard me. I don't want no trouble from you."

Hoodgie spat on the street. "Shee-yit! I done tol' ya. I ain't goin' nowhere!"

The sickening thunk of the nightstick meeting Hoodgie's skull happened so fast I didn't really see it, but I did see Hoodgie go down in a heap, his scalp spurting gushers of bright red arterial blood.

"Jesus, Yugi," an adult bystander said, "I think you mighta killed 'im!"

"Naah," Yugi scoffed. "Niggers got hard heads. He'll be alright."

Yugi then casually replaced the nightstick in his belt and bent over to grasp the back of Hoodgie's collar. With no apparent effort, he began to drag the unconscious body through the street.

"Where you takin' im?" someone asked.

"Takin' 'im to jail! Where the hell you think I'm takin' 'im?"

"But he needs a doctor."

"Hell with that. I'm not messin' up my squad car. Y'ins go on home now. It's all over."

Hoodgie's shoes bumped sadly along while Yugi continued his purposeful trudge through the middle of town, a trail of smeary blood left behind in the wake.

My friends and I followed at a safe distance, watching in horror for the few minutes that it took to get to the town jail, a no-frills cinder block building with two cells and an iron bar door that was open to the elements. Hoodgie was still unconscious, and still bleeding, but Yugi remained unfazed. He unlocked the bars and dragged Hoodgie inside, leaving

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him slumped on the stone floor. When he walked out he shooed us away. "Wachoo kids lookin' at?" he barked. "Git outta here. G'wan, git!"

At this point Hoodgie let out a pathetic groan. I panicked. "Yugi!" I begged, "you can't leave 'im like that. He's gonna bleed to death in there!"

He pointed a menacing finger at me. "David, this ain't none o' your business. Now git on home before I tell your old man you're interfering with the law."

I ran to my house, which was fronted by the family grocery store. As always, my father was behind the counter.

"Dad!" I cried breathlessly, "you gotta do somethin'! Yugi Tarap hit Hoodgie over the head an' Hoodgie's bleedin' to death in the jail."

My father put his arm around me. "I know, I already heard about it. Somebody called Doctor Mathewson to go have a look at him. He'll make sure Hoodgie's okay." He patted my shoulder. "Now I want you to stay here. It's getting dark and I don't want you going back out. And stay away from Yugi."

"Are you sure the doctor's gonna see him?" I fretted. "Yugi didn't say anything about that."

"Doctor Mathewson doesn't worry about Yugi," Dad said. "He'll do what he needs to do. Now why don't you go get washed up and get in bed. Then I'll come up and sit with you for a while." And he did, though it didn't save me from a night of fitful dreams.

Memories of Monterey Day hayride (photo by Jean Germain)

The next morning I rushed to the jail where a small crowd had already gathered. To my relief, Hoodgie was sitting up and talking to them from behind the bars. The left side of his face and shirt were caked with dried blood, but he was alert and very much alive. Before long Yugi's police car pulled up. He sat there for a while, taking his time while writing on a clipboard, then got out and gave us a menacing look that made us back away. The black people among us kept their eyes down.

Yugi rapped on the bars with his nightstick. "Hoodgie!"

"Yes, sir," Hoodgie answered quietly.

"You ready to behave?"

"Yes, sir," Hoodgie repeated, nodding his bloodied head.

Yugi unlocked the door and swung it open wide. "Okay then," he said, jerking his thumb in the direction of Hoodgie's neighborhood. "G'wan home."

That was the end of the Hoodgie episode. By afternoon it was old news. Hoodgie had misbehaved, Yugi did his job, and that was that.

Those who had misgivings about Yugi's arbitrary style of peacekeeping kept their feelings to themselves. After all, the town was free of crime. People left their doors unlocked and they could walk the streets without fear. If there was concern about the price of compromising our civil liberties, no one voiced it; no one questioned the system.

Years later, the citizens of Oakdale and the nation at large were to undergo a social upheaval that would radically change this mindset. But in 1953, that's just the way it was.

— David Shifrin

ॐ

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Remembering Harry Gustafson

Harry L. Gustafson, Jr., 86, of New Marlborough and Worcester, died on November 13 at the Heatherwood Nursing Center in Newport, R.I. After living in Mill River for twenty years, he moved to Goddard House in Worcester and had lived there and at Homestead Hall, also in Worcester, for the past six years.

Born in Gardner on July 5,1921, son of Harry L. and Ruby Derby Gustafson, he grew up in Worcester and graduated from North High School. He was also a 1943 graduate of Dartmouth College and earned his MBA from the Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth, after his service in World War II.

Mr. Gustafson served in the Navy and the Naval Reserve. He was an officer on the USS Rodman (DMS 21) during World War II.

Mr. Gustafson was a sales representative for U.S. Rubber, Proctor and Gamble and H. A. Johnson. After leaving the corporate arena, he opened his own small business, Gustafson's Bakery and Coffee House, in Great Barrington. After 10 years in the bakery business, Mr. Gustafson became the assistant tax assessor for both Monterey and Great Barrington.

He was the husband of the late Marjorie May (Jones) Gustafson.

Mr. Gustafson leaves two sons, Harry L. Gustafson, III, of Middletown, R.I., and Robert Derby Gustafson of Rock Hill, S.C.; a sister, Helen Fifield of Sterling; a brother in-law, Warren Jones of Harlowton, Mont.

Mr. Gustafson also leaves two daughters-in-law, Mattie E. (Harry) Gustafson, and Lynn (Robert) Gustafson; and five granchildren, Andrew E. and his wife, Casey A. Gustafson, of Middletown, R.I.; and Jason, Sean, Evan, and Lauren Gustafson, of Rock Hill, S.C. He was predeceased by a son, W. Otis Gustafson, and a sister, Esther Torberg.

Donations in Harry's memory may be made to The Trustees of Reservations, Annual Appeal, 572 Essex St., Beverly, MA 01915, or The Massachusetts Audubon Society, 208 South Great Rd., Lincoln, MA 01773.

P.O. Box 9, 01245

A Big Thanks to the Highway Crew

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Melissa Noe, the Selectmen, and above all Maynard Forbes and the Monterey Highway Department for the miracle of solving my grievous problems with the stones on Hupi Road! I, at 85, and others can now walk up and down without stumbling! Further, I think I can express with a collective voice for the village our unspoken but heartfelt appreciation of what you faithful guys of the Highway Department do, year in and year out, to keep our roads safe, come tornados, floods or blizzards or just another day. We say bless you and good on you! Truly.

— Alice O. Howell

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing. We know you receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

Glenn M. Heller
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Calendar

Every Monday (except holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Town Offices.

Every Friday & Saturday in December: Music nights at Monterey General Store. See ad p. 2.

Saturday, December 8: Christmas stories and crafts for children with Denise Andrus, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Sunday, December 9: Meeting to look into ways to work with Dr. Ruth Engo's African Action on Aids, 1 p.m., Meetinghouse Social Hall. See p. 8.

Tuesday, December 11 (and every second Tuesday): Monterey Blue Grass Jam, 6–8:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Open to all skill levels; for information call Jeff Litishin, 413-528-1343.

Wednesday, December 12: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Music by Eric Martin and Steve Enoch of Bottom of the Bucket. See p. 6.

Thursday, December 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, 2:00 p.m., Monterey Town Hall Meeting Room.

Friday, December 14–Sunday, December 16: Holiday Art & Crafts Sale featuring local artisans, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery (on Route 57). Friday 6–8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, noon–5 p.m. See p. 10.

Sunday, December 16: Town Christmas Party, 1:30 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Hayride, singing, refreshments, visit from Santa. Sponsored by Park Commission and Coffee Club. See p. 6.

Tuesday, December 18: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, December 22: Winter solstice, first day of winter.

Sunday, December 23: Full Moon. Watch your cat.

Monday, December 24:

Town Offices and Library closed, no meetings.

Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See p. 7.

Living Nativity, 8 p.m., Gould Farm.

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day, Town Offices, Library closed.

Friday, December 28: 3rd Annual Big, Big Concert with many local musicians, 8 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. $15. Sponsored by Monterey general Store. See ad below.

Monday, December 31: New Year's Eve. Select Board meeting 8:30 a.m., Town Offices. Library closed.

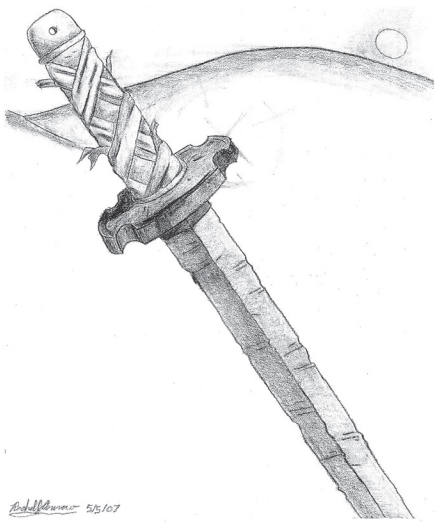
Tuesday, January 1, 2008: Town Offices, Library closed. Happy New Year!

ॐ

The Observer
October 26 – November 25

High temp. (10/28)	64°
Low temp. (11/24)	12°
Avg. high temp.	46.1°
Avg. low temp.	27.0°
Avg. temp.	36.6°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.48 in.
Snowfall	2.5 in.

Precipitation occurred on 16 days.



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Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Arnow, pp. 22, 23; Maureen Banner, pp. 4, 19;
George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 15.

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